

§ 230.39 State priority plan—financial assistance.

(a) Cost-share financial assistance includes a wide range of activities and practices developed by a State Forester, in cooperation with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee.

(b) A State does not have to adopt a separate FLEP cost-share program if a State cost-share program already exists that meets the objectives of FLEP. However, FLEP funds must be accounted for in accordance with Federal financial accounting standards. If an existing cost-share program is used, a copy of the guidelines for that program must be referenced and attached to the State priority plan.

(c) If a State determines that all or some of its funds will be placed into a cost-share program, the State priority plan must identify and describe how the cost-share funds will be made available to landowners participating in FLEP and expected outcomes and method(s) for documenting and evaluating accomplishments.

(d) The cost-share section of the State priority plan must include all of the following information:

(1) Describe any land ownership or annual acreage eligibility limitation under FLEP that is more restrictive than that established by the authorizing statute;

(2) Describe any limitations for cost-share of management plans;

(3) Define what constitutes a management plan if a State chooses to adopt more restrictive requirements than those established in this subpart; and

(4) Identify aggregate payment limitations to any one landowner receiving cost-share funds through FLEP.

(e) The State priority plan must also describe how funds identified for cost-share with landowners will be distributed and how cost-share rates are determined and established for each practice.

(f) The State priority plan must describe the application and payment process for landowners interested in participating in and receiving cost-share through FLEP (§ 230.42).

(g) The State priority plan must also address the following steps related to financial assistance:

(1) Application procedure;

(2) Approval process;

(3) Performance period;

(4) Cancellation of approvals;

(5) Certification of performance;

(6) Payment;

(7) Maintenance and compliance;

(8) Procedure for recapture of funds for non-compliance; and

(9) Appeals procedures.

§ 230.40 Eligible practices for cost-share assistance.

(a) The State priority plan must document and describe which of the following eleven categories will be made available to landowners for cost-share funding:

(1) *Management Plan Development*—Development or revision of a management plan that must meet the minimum standards of a Forest Stewardship Plan (16 U.S.C. 2103a(f)(i)). The plan applies to those portions of the landowner's property on which any practice or activity funded under FLEP shall be carried out, as well as any property of the owner that may be affected by the activity or practice. Management plans are not subject to any acreage limits, and therefore cost-sharing such a plan under FLEP is exempt from the 1,000-acre (or 5,000-acre) limit unless restricted as described in the State priority plan.

(2) *Afforestation and Reforestation*—Site preparation, planting, seeding, or other practices to encourage natural regeneration or to ensure forest establishment and carbon sequestration.

(3) *Forest Stand Improvement*—Practices to enhance growth and quality of wood fiber, special forest products, and carbon sequestration.

(4) *Agroforestry Implementation*—Establishment, maintenance, and renovation of windbreaks, riparian forest buffers, silvopasture, alley cropping, or other agroforestry practices, including purposes for energy conservation and carbon sequestration in conjunction with agriculture, forest, and other land uses.

(5) *Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection*—Establishment,